

nights of quiet planning and worry; and in his constant efforts to teach, encourage, discipline, and guide.

Between the daily demands and the everyday frustrations of parenting, a father might not feel like a hero, but in the eyes of his children he is very, very special. Youngsters treasure their father's attention and affection, and his presence alone gives them a warm sense of security and reassurance. In him they have a beloved champion and friend.

While many heroes of youth are forgotten over time, a loving and responsible father is a lifelong role model for his children. His lessons have great and lasting value because they center around the things that give our lives dignity and meaning: love and faith, service and self-sacrifice.

No medal could ever convey all of the honor and thanks that are due to our Nation's dads; thus, on this Father's Day, let us pray that God will reward them with His choicest blessings. And whether we do so in person, across the miles, or in loving memory, let each of us remember our own father with renewed appreciation and respect.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, in accordance with a joint resolution of the Congress approved April 24, 1972 (36 U.S.C. 142a), do hereby proclaim Sunday, June 16, as Father's Day. I urge all Americans to observe that day with appropriate ceremonies as a mark of appreciation and abiding affection for their fathers. I direct government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Federal Government buildings, and I encourage all Americans to display the flag at their homes and other suitable places on that day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6303 of June 11, 1991

National Scleroderma Awareness Week, 1991

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Scleroderma, which literally means "hard skin," is a connective tissue disorder in which excessive amounts of the protein collagen accumulate in the skin. In addition to the skin, scleroderma affects small blood vessels, muscles, and joints. It may also damage internal organs such as the esophagus, lungs, kidneys, and heart.

Although scleroderma can strike men and women of any age, it occurs most often in women during their childbearing years. The disease is often painful, and it may cause disfigurement, disability, and even death. The impact on victims and their families—in terms of both physical and emotional suffering—is enormous.

Fortunately, progress is being made in determining the cause of scleroderma and in developing more effective treatments for the disease. Researchers have developed an animal model that will help them to understand more about the nature and the progression of scleroderma. They have also made an important finding in the discovery of abnormalities in collagen-producing cells, known as fibroblasts, among scleroderma victims. Furthermore, they have found that treatment with specific agents, such as d-penicillamine, may retard the hardening of collagen in the skin.

As is the case with any other disease, it is very important to diagnose scleroderma in its early stages. Timely intervention, coupled with sound treatment, can improve the quality of life enjoyed by people with scleroderma until research yields a cure.

To enhance public awareness of scleroderma, the Congress, by House Joint Resolution 219, has designated the week beginning June 9, 1991, as "National Scleroderma Awareness Week" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week beginning June 9, 1991, as National Scleroderma Awareness Week. I encourage the people of the United States to observe this week with appropriate programs and activities that will enhance their understanding of scleroderma and the need for continued research.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eleventh day of June, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fifteenth.

GEORGE BUSH

Proclamation 6304 of June 11, 1991

Independence Day, 1991

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

On July 4, 1776, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, our Nation's Founders boldly declared America's Independence and affirmed the truth "that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness." They did so knowing that they risked nothing less than their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor. On this occasion, we celebrate that profound act of faith and courage and give thanks for the rich legacy of freedom that this country has enjoyed ever since.

That legacy has enabled us to enjoy unparalleled levels of security and prosperity, and it has inspired millions of people around the world in their own struggles for liberty and self-government. Thus, every picnic and parade, every backyard barbecue and public display of fireworks